

Appl. No. 09/509,945

REMARKS

Claims 11-29 are pending in the present application. Withdrawn claims 24 and 25 are canceled herein. Finally rejected claims 13-14 and 17-21 are also canceled. Finally rejected claims 22 and 23 are amended to depend from allowed claims 11, 12, 15, or 16. No new matter is inserted into the application.

Advisory Action

In the Advisory Action dated September 2, 2003, the Examiner enters the Reply after Final filed on July 23, 2003. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph has been overcome, and the Examiner states claims 11, 12, 15, and 16 would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims. The rejection of claims 13, 14, 17-23, and 26-29 is maintained, and claims 24 and 25 remain withdrawn from consideration.

In response to the Examiner's remarks, Applicants cancel withdrawn claims 24 and 25, as well as finally rejected claims 13-14 and 17-21 herein. Claims 22 and 23 are amended to depend from any one of allowed claims 11, 12, 15, or 16. Claims 26-29 depend ultimately from claim 23. As discussed with the Examiner telephonically on September 16, 2003, claims 22-23 and 26-29 should also be considered allowable.

Appl. No. 09/509,945

Summary

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance indicating that claims 11-12, 15-16, 22-23, and 26-29 are allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kristi L. Rupert, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 45,702) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Certificate of Transmission
I hereby Certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office:

On 9-27-03

Gail Layman
Signature

Typed or printed name of person signing certificate

GMR
GMM/KLR
0230-0148P

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By *G. M. Murphy* #32868
Gerald M. Murphy, Jr., #28,977

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000